

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8484

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0446

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: FRENCH CGT STANCE ON EC VOCATIONAL CENTER DERAILED
ITS BID FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP

1. SUMMARY: THE FRENCH CGT'S UNEXPECTED OPPOSITIONS TO THE LOCATION OF THE NEW EC VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN WEST BERLIN HAS RALLIED CGT OPPONENTS WITHIN THE ETUC AND PROSPECTS FOR EARLY CGT MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC ARE THOUGHT TO BE CONSIDERABLY DIMINISHED. THE CGT POSITION ON THE VOCATIONAL CENTER WAS PUT FORTH IN A LETTER TO EC PRESIDENT ORTOLI LAST
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MONTH. A CONSENSUS VIEW OF BRUSSELS-BASED INTERNATIONAL TRADE

UNION LEADERS IS THAT THE CGT, BY OPPOSING THE EC COUNCIL DECISION TO LOCATE THE CENTER IN WEST BERLIN, HAS STRENGTHENED THE POSITION OF GERMAN DGB-LED OPPONENTS TO CGT ADMISSION TO THE ETUC. THIS OPPOSITION HAS CONTENDED THAT THE CGT, BEING TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT TO THE SOVIETS, IS THEREFORE NOT AN INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION AND CONSEQUENTLY INELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FRENCH CGT DECISION TO SUPPORT THE SOVIET PROTEST AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEWLY CREATED EC VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN WEST BERLIN HAS APPARENTLY INTENSIFIED OPPOSITION TO THE CGT'S APPLICATION FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP. ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS VIEW THE CGT ACTION AS CLEAR CONFIRMATION OF THE FACT THAT THE CGT, UNLIKE THE ITALIAN CGIL, TAKES ITS ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM MOSCOW AND ALSO THAT THE CGT SEEKS ETUC MEMBERSHIP MERELY FOR PURPOSES OF EXERCISING THE CLASSIC COMMUNIST TACTIC OF BORING FROM WITHIN.

3. ETUC PRESIDENT VETTER AND GENERAL SECRETARY RASSCHAERT ARE STILL UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO HOLD "TALKS" WITH CGT LEADERS ABOUT THE CGT APPLICATION FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO THE NEXT ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 25. VETTER AND RASSCHAERT, WHO HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OPPONENTS OF CGT MEMBERSHIP SINCE THE QUESTION AROSE LAST YEAR, OPPOSED HOLDING THE "TALKS" BECAUSE THEY FELT IT REPRESENTED A FIRST STEP TOWARD EVENTUAL CGT ADMISSION. NOW, ACCORDING TO RASSCHAERT, THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CGT APPLICATION WILL BE SHELVED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD AND THAT THE "TALKS," ALTHOUGH THEY MAY STILL TAKE PLACE, WILL BE MEANINGLESS.

4. RASSCHAERT RECENTLY TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE EC VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER CONTROVERSY HAS PUNCHED HOLES IN THE SAILS OF CGT SUPPORTERS ON THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE BRITISH TUC. HE ALSO SAID THAT BELGIAN FGTB LEADER GEORGES DEBUNNE, A FORMER CHAMPION OF CGT MEMBERSHIP, HAS JUMPED THE FENCE LEAVING THE BRITISH AND SOME SCANDINAVIAN LEADERS IN A DISTINCT MINORITY IN THE ETUC ON THE CGT ISSUE. (DEBUNNE'S CHANGED POSITION HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED WITH US BY ICFTU OFFICIALS).

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5. RASSCHAERT DESCRIBED THE CGT'S LETTER TO ORTOLI AS A TACTICAL BLUNDER WHICH HAS BOOMERANGED. HE SAID THE CGT ERROR WAS COMPOUNDED BY THE CGT'S EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT (FORMERLY CGT-CGIL PERMANENT COMMITTEE) DECISION TO ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE JUSTIFYING THE CGT'S POSITION ON THE VOCATIONAL CENTER.

6. THE MISSION'S TRANSLATION OF THE PRESS RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: "WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS AGREED THAT THE EUROPEAN
CENTER OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BE INSTALLED IN WEST-BERLIN.
"WE FEEL THAT THIS DECISION IS CONTRARY TO THE STATUS OF WEST-
BERLIN; IT IS IN OPPOSITION TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GDR,
WHICH IS RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, BY ALL THE E.C. STATES; IT BRINGS
BACK UNPLEASANT MEMORIES OF THE COLD WAR SPIRIT THAT THE
OPPONENTS OF DETENTE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE TRY TO REVIVE; IT IS
IN ESSENCE PREJUDICIAL TO EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
COOPERATION, TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND TO THE INTERESTS OF
WORKERS AND OF PEOPLE. "IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CGT REQUIRES
THE ANNULMENT OF THIS DECISION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTER OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
IN THE CAPITAL OF ONE OF THE MEMBER STATES." END TEXT. GREENWALD

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